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5 .	It was decided that keeping in view that inflows and storages in the four Karnataka reservoirs and in Mettur as well as the requirements of the two States, Karnataka should release waters from its reservoirs so as to ensure an inflow of 9000 cusecs at Mettur amounting to about 0.8 TMC per day accounted on a weekly average basis for the months of September and October, 2002. Tamil Nadu in turn will ensure proportionate releases to Pondicherry.

Report on safe drinking water

1504. SHRI CR THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the report published by Third World Academy of Science on 'Safe Drinking Water';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c)whether it is a fact that India has to face severe water scarcity as per the report; and

(d) if so, the action proposed by Government to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report published by Third World Academy of Science on "Safe Drinking Water" states that the majority of the world's population does not have access to safe drinking water. This is certainly true in most parts of Africa and Asia. Even in relatively advanced countries such as India, safe drinking water is not readily available, particularly in rural areas. Together these sources account for just 1 per cent of all water on earth. Six billion people depend on freshwater supply (available from rivers, lakes, underground sources and aquifers) and a significant portion of the world's population now face water shortages. Today 31 countries representing 2.8 billion people, including China, India, Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Peru, confront chronic water problems. Total withdrawals of freshwater have increased dramatically in

recent times. The groundwater aquifers are currently being depleted faster than they are being replenished in parts of India, China and the United States. The report narrates some success stories of augmenting supply of water and water harvesting and community farming in Rajasthan achieved by Tarun Bharat Sangh. The report also speaks about ways to save and replenish water, making water safe and potable, making waste water fit for use again and technology to make safe drinking water.

(c) The average annual water availability in the river-systems of the country is assessed at 1869 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). According to the International Criteria, a situation of annual water availability of less than 1000 cubic metre per capita is considered as scarcity condition. The per capita water availability in India is 1820 cubic metre per year (2001). However, due to spatial variability of rain in the country and also because of variation in population density, per capita average annual availability of water in different basins presently varies from 16,990 cubic metre in Minor River Basins draining into Bangladesh & Myanmar, 13,636 cubic metre in Brahmaputra-Barak basin to 298 cubic metre in Sabarmati basin. Presently, per capita water availability in some river basins namely. Area of Inland Drainage in Rajasthan Desert; Sabarmati; East Flowing Rivers between Mahanadi and Kanyakumari; Pennar; West Flowing Rivers of Kutchh, Saurashtra including Luni; Cauvery; Tapi and Mahi is in scarcity cdondition. Further, temporal variability in rainfall also creates temporary scarcity of water in certain years. In year 2025, the per capita water availability has been estimated as 1341 cubic metre per year on a national level. The river basins Krishna, Subarnarekha and Ganga are also likely to come under the category *ot* scarce basins.

(d) To address the problem of water scarcity in the country, emphasis is being made to augmei*:t storages through constructioa of dams, speedy completion of ongoing water resources projects, other means for water harvesting and conservation, and non-conventionaJ measures like interlinking of rivers. The National Perspective Plan for water resources development envisages interlinking between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins to provide benefits of drinking water supply, irrigation, hydro-power, flood control, navigation, fisheries, salinity and pollution control etc.

Water Supply is a State subject and State Governments implement schemes/projects on drinking water supply from their own resources. The Government of India supplements their efforts to overcome the water crisis by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP).

Irrigation Facilities In Assam

1505. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed for providing irrigation facilities in the State of Assam during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of financial assistance proposed to be granted to Assam during the current financial year for the said purpose; and

(d) The necessary steps being taken by Government to achieve the targets as fixed for agriculture development in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The targets for providing irrigation facilities in the State of Assam during the Tenth Five Year Plan hdve not been finalized by the Planning Commission.

(b) Does Not arise.

(c) In addition to plan allocation for the year 2002-03 to be finalized, for which the Working Group of the Planning Commission has recommended Rs. 114.76 crore for major, medium and minor irrigation projects/schemes in the State of Assam, Central assistance is also proposed. Financial assistance under the Command Area Development Programme (CADP) is proposed to be provided to the State depending on proposals from the State Government and uti" zation of funds received so far under the programme. Under the A"